

**FOOTWEAR WITH REMOVABLE FOOT-SUPPORTING MEMBER****CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

- JK 12/19/05
- [01] This application is a divisional application of, and claims the benefit of priority to, U.S. Patent Application Number 09/990,100, which was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 21, 2001, <sup>now U.S. Patent No. 6,684,532</sup> and is hereby entirely incorporated by reference.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****Field of the Invention**

- [02] The present invention relates to footwear. The invention concerns, more particularly, an article of footwear having a removable foot-supporting member.

**Description of Background Art**

- [03] One objective of modern athletic footwear design is to minimize weight while maximizing comfort, stability, and durability. In order to meet this goal, designers utilize a broad range of materials, shoe components, and shoe-making methods. The basic design of conventional athletic footwear, however, remains largely uniform and includes two primary elements, an upper and a sole structure. The upper may be formed of leather, synthetic materials, or a combination thereof and comfortably receives the foot while providing ventilation and protection from the elements. The sole structure includes multiple layers that are conventionally referred to as an insole, midsole, and outsole. The insole is a thin, padded member located adjacent to the foot that improves overall comfort of the footwear. In many articles of footwear, the insole is removable and may be replaced. The midsole forms the middle layer of the sole and often incorporate a resilient foam material, such as polyurethane or ethyl vinyl acetate, that attenuates shock and